

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 22 as follows.

--Fig. 5 is a schematic cross section showing an image forming apparatus most adapted to personal users among the image forming apparatuses described above realizing a compact size. It is structured such that image forming units are surrounding a photosensitive unit as a first image bearing member as a center. Particularly, an intermediate transfer member serving as a second image bearing member realizes a compact apparatus by integrating with the photosensitive unit and accomplishes improvements in usability by reducing the replacement unit number.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 2, line 24 as follows.

--Where the unit is detached, the coupling member of the image forming apparatus is moved in arrow C direction, and where the coupling members are isolated, the unit is detached. This detaching operation can be done with incorporating, e.g., a mechanism ~~associating~~ associated with open and closed operation of a door of the image forming apparatus. When the image forming unit is attached, the coupling member of the image forming apparatus is moved in a direction opposite to arrow C in utilizing substantially the same jointly operating mechanism, and the drive force is transmitted to each unit upon fitting of the coupling protrusion and recess according to rotation of the coupling members in association with the beginning of the image forming operation.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, line 1 as follows.

--However, with such a structure, the following may occur. (a) Where a photosensitive body unit detachably attached to an image forming apparatus and an intermediate transfer member unit are attached to an image forming apparatus body, differences among the period that the coupling is completed at respective units may occur. This is due to shapes of the coupling members or coupling phase differences of the coupling members when the coupling members are fitted. Those time differences appear as differences in timings for beginning driving at the respective units. The timing difference in beginning driving caused by the phase difference is of a phase difference of 120 degrees as the maximum value in a case of the triangle coupling members as shown in Fig. 6, and the time difference to nullify the difference becomes the differences in timings to begin driving.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, line 13 as follows.

--Where the photosensitive body unit first drives and then the intermediate transfer belt begins driving according to timing differences of driving beginning, the drive torque of the photosensitive body unit first beginning the rotation is varied according to the drive of the intermediate transfer belt, thereby generating irregular rotation in the photosensitive body unit. If images are formed already on the photosensitive body unit at that time, it is not favorable because the images are blurred due to the irregular rotation that may occur where the images are already formed on the photosensitive body unit.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 4, line 22 as follows.

--(b) As a ~~mean~~ means for cleaning the remaining toner on the photosensitive drum, it is a general method in which a blade shaped rubber is made in contact with the surface of the photosensitive body to wipe the toners. Where the toner is remaining on the photosensitive body surface, the toner itself becomes a lubricant, so that there is no problem ~~on~~ of friction between the cleaning means and the photosensitive body. If no toner is remaining on the photosensitive body surface, wearing on the photosensitive body surface layer proceeds due to ~~frictions~~ friction between the photosensitive body and the cleaning means, thereby reducing the duration of the photosensitive body.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 5 as follows.

--Fig. 1 is a schematic cross section showing a multicolor image forming apparatus using an electrophotographic process as a ~~basic~~ basis of the invention.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 18 as follows.

--The electrophotographic photosensitive body 1 in a rotary drum type (hereinafter referred to as “photosensitive drum”) as the first image bearing member is disposed in the apparatus body. The surface of the photosensitive drum 1 is processed to be charged evenly at a prescribed potential with a charger device 2. The photosensitive drum evenly charged receives laser beam L emitted from an exposure apparatus 3 based on an image signal, and an electrostatic latent image based on the image signal is formed on the photosensitive drum 1. When the electrostatic latent image passes by a developing

cartridge 4Y (hereinafter referred to as “developing cartridge”) waiting at a position facing with a prescribed gap to the photosensitive drum 1 at a prescribed timing according to the rotation (arrow *a* direction) of the photosensitive drum 1, bias enabling the toner in a prescribed amount to be developed is applied to the electrostatic latent image, thereby visualizing the electrostatic latent image with an a toner image developed by the developing cartridge 4Y. The visualized image on the photosensitive drum 1 is transferred to an intermediate transfer member (hereinafter referred to as “intermediate transfer belt”) in an endless belt shape serving as a second image bearing member moving as in contact with the photosensitive drum 1 at a prescribed contacting width at substantially the same speed to the photosensitive drum 1 in the reverse direction to the photosensitive drum 1.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 13 as follows.

--Fig. 2 is a cross section showing a unit (hereinafter referred to as “image forming unit”) integrating the photosensitive drum 1 and the intermediate transfer belt 5 in the above image forming apparatus. The replacement unit in which conventionally a unit containing the photosensitive drum and a unit containing the intermediate transfer belt 5 are generally independent of each other, is in turn made of an integrated unit in this embodiment, thereby accomplishing improvement in usability.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 11, line 4 as follows.

--The second transfer member 6 is located as in a state isolated from the intermediate transfer belt 5 during the normal image forming operation, and comes in

contact with the intermediate transfer belt 5 by an isolation mechanism, not shown, in synchronous with the timing that the transfer material P is conveyed to the second transfer member 6. After completion of the transfer step to the transfer material P, the second transfer member 6 is isolated from the intermediate transfer belt 5.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 13, line 26 as follows.

--However, the intermediate transfer belt 5 rotates with a rotation speed substantially the same as the photosensitive drum 1, so that the load to the photosensitive drum 1 becomes null according to the rotation of the intermediate transfer belt 5. The shock is caused by this load deviation, and it is of a not favorable level as an image quality.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 15, line 18 as follows.

--To realize this, where the photosensitive drum 1 rotates earlier than the intermediate transfer belt 5, the photosensitive drum 1 continuously rotates until ~~that~~ the TOP detection sensor 11 detects the TOP detection mark M.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 17, line 8 as follows.

--The users can avoid getting nervous for waiting for the output image in front of the image forming apparatus because the sought images can be outputted earlier even by a small period of time. Since the duration of the image forming unit containing the photosensitive drum 1 is extended, frequency of the unit replacements can be reduced, and

the costs needed for replacements can be reduced.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 18, line 15 as follows.

--In such a case, where it is structured such that the drive of the transfer material carrying belt 90 starts before the start of the drive of the photosensitive drums 92a, 92b, 92c, 92d, substantially the same advantages can be obtained as the respective embodiments above.--

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 18, line 24 as follows.

--Because the rubbing period to the photosensitive body by the cleaning means can be reduced, wearing of the surface layer of the photosensitive body can be suppressed, and the duration of the photosensitive body can be extended.--